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U.S. lawmaker backs renegotiating global economic rules to reflect China's rise

By **KEN MORITSUGU**
Associated Press

SHANGHAI (AP) — The head of a U.S. congressional delegation visiting China said he backed renegotiating the rules governing the global economy to take into account China's rise and that of others such as India and Brazil. Rep. Adam Smith, a Democrat from Washington state, told the mayor of Shanghai on Thursday that the U.S.-led post-World War II order has worked well for many countries, including China, but that "we understand that things have changed." His remarks, at end of a five-day trip to China,



U.S. Representative Adam Smith speaks during a press conference at the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Shanghai, China, Thursday, Sept.25, 2025.

Associated Press

Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. The trade conflict is creating difficulties for companies on both sides of the Pacific, he said. The lawmakers were later seen at a Starbucks, another U.S.-headquartered company, in the lobby of the office building. The exchange with the Shanghai Mayor Gong Zheng started after Smith politely interrupted Gong about 10 minutes including time for translation into the mayor's introduction to Shanghai as an economic and financial center. How is the U.S.-China tariff war impacting Shanghai's economy, Smith wanted to know, and how does the mayor think it should be resolved.

Gong said that Shanghai, a major shipping port, is among those most affected because of its high exposure to international trade.

"We're very glad to see that we already have talks and negotiations," Gong said, citing the four rounds of meetings since May in Geneva, Stockholm, London and, most recently, Madrid.

He stated the Chinese government position that there are no winners in trade wars, but China will fight back if there is a war while remaining open to negotiation. Smith expressed hope that both tariffs and other barriers to imports would be reduced. He then called for a robust debate about how to renegotiate the rules governing the economy.

"China and the U.S. are the two most important players in how we resolve that," he said. "How do we get to an international rules based order that is more agreeable to everyone?" China maintains that the current international order favors the U.S. and other rich nations. The government says it doesn't want to overturn that order but make it better serve the interests of all countries, particularly developing ones. □

dovetailed with Chinese leader Xi Jinping's recent announcement of an initiative to build a more equitable global governance system. They also reflected the reality that though the U.S. remains the most powerful country in the world, China is emerging as a potential challenger for global leadership.

The delegation of three Democrats Smith, Rep. Ro Khanna from California and Rep. Chrissy Houlahan from Pennsylvania and Republican Rep. Michael Baumgartner from Washington state, wrapped up their trip in Shanghai after three days of meetings with government leaders in Beijing. The main purpose of the visit the first by members of the U.S. House of Representatives since 2019 was to open up lines of communication between the governments, Smith said. A U.S. Senate delegation visited in 2023.

Citing the expansion of McDonald's outlets in China, Smith said his biggest takeaway from the trip was that a lot of business is going on between the two economies despite the ongoing trade and tariff war. "We have a lot of work to do to resolve those issues," he told a small group of journalists after a meeting with the American

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Trump officials urge nations to join effort to restrict asylum system as advocates brace for impact

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Trump administration pitched several other countries Thursday on its view that the global system for seeking asylum, in effect since World War II, has been rampantly abused and urged them to join the United States in cracking down on such migration. Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau led the discussion on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly alongside representatives from Kosovo, Bangladesh, Liberia and Panama. Landau's gathering allowed American officials to gauge early support and interest for what could be a massive revamp of the asylum system.

"If you have hundreds of thousands of fake asylum seekers, then what happens to the real asylum system?" Landau said in his opening remarks. "Saying the process is susceptible to abuse is not xenophobic; it is not being a mean or bad person."

The U.S. said changes must, at a minimum, embrace asylum as a temporary status and dictate that those



President Donald Trump addresses the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025, at U.N. headquarters.

Associated Press

seeking protection should eventually return home. The Trump administration also emphasized that there is no right to receive asylum in a country of choice and that decisions are governed by individual nations, not multinational organizations.

Human rights groups watched from the sidelines with unease.

Bill Frelick, Human Rights Watch's director of refugee

and migrant rights, said the U.S. proposal "looks like the first step in a bid to tear down the global refugee system." He faulted the proposal for not embracing a core principle of the current system that people should not be sent to countries where they face persecution.

Filippo Grandi, the U.N. refugee chief, sat in the audience as the world leaders on the panel applauded

the Trump administration's controversial approach to asylum and migration. Grandi, whose organization advocates for those in forced displacement, used the Q&A portion of the event to plead with Landau to take advantage of organizations like his as the U.S. moves forward with this shift in nearly 80 years of policy. "The right to seek asylum, which my organization upholds, is not incom-

patible with sovereignty," Grandi said to the panel. He added that instead of rushing to halt the global asylum process, "the key is to address the root causes" that force people to flee in the first place.

The U.S. has been the top destination for asylum-seekers by far since 2017, with Germany a distant second, according to 2024 figures from the U.N. refugee agency. President Donald Trump and his allies say people with weak cases have abused the system to gain entry to the United States, obtaining work permits while their cases take years to wind through backlogged immigration courts. The U.S. adheres to a global asylum system first laid out in the 1951 Refugee Convention and enshrined into U.S. law in 1980.

People seeking refuge in the U.S. are able to apply for asylum once they are on American soil, regardless of whether they came legally. To qualify, they have to show a fear of persecution in their own country because of specific reasons, such as their race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion. □

Hegseth abruptly summons top military commanders to a meeting in Virginia next week

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN, EMMA BURROWS, BEN FINLEY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has summoned the military's top officers hundreds of generals and admirals to a base in northern Virginia for a sudden meeting next week, according to three people familiar with the matter.

The directive did not offer a reason for the gathering Tuesday of senior commanders of the one-star rank or higher and their top advisers at the Marine Corps base in Quantico. The people, who described the move as unusual, were

not authorized to publicly discuss the sensitive plans and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Pentagon's top spokesman, Sean Parnell, confirmed that Hegseth "will be addressing his senior military leaders early next week."

Across the military, there are 800 generals and admirals of all ranks. Many command thousands of service members and are stationed across the world in more than a dozen countries and time zones.

The meeting, first reported by The Washington Post, comes on the heels of several unusual and unexplained actions that Heg-

seth has taken involving military leaders.

In May, Hegseth ordered

that the military cut 20% of its four-star general officers, directed an additional

10% cut from all general and flag officers across the force, and told the National Guard to shed 20% of its top positions.

In February, Hegseth fired Adm. Lisa Franchetti, the Navy's top officer, and Gen. James Slife, the Air Force's second highest officer, without explanation. He also relieved the military's top lawyers.

Since then, Hegseth has fired other military leaders without saying why. Most recently it was a general who led a military intelligence agency whose initial assessment of U.S. damage to Iranian nuclear sites in American strikes angered President Donald Trump. □



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, left, and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George review troops during the POW/MIA National Recognition Day Ceremony at the Pentagon, Sept. 19, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

U.S. Justice Department sues 6 more states, including NY and California, in its quest for voter data

By **MARC LEVY**

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) —

The U.S. Justice Department sued six more states on Thursday, saying the states are illegally blocking the agency's wide-ranging effort to scrutinize detailed voter data in a brewing court fight over what states say is the private, protected information of residents. The Justice Department also accused the states of failing to respond sufficiently to questions about the procedures they take to maintain voter rolls.

The department's newest lawsuits targeted California, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania after it sued Oregon and Maine last week and has said it is mounting a nationwide effort to ensure that states are complying with federal requirements to maintain voter rolls. "Clean voter rolls are the foundation of free and fair elections," Attorney General Pamela Bondi said in a statement. "Every state has a responsibility to ensure that voter registration records are accurate, accessible, and se-



Attorney General Pam Bondi listens as President Donald Trump signs a presidential memorandum on the death penalty in the District of Columbia in the Oval Office at the White House, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025, in Washington.

cure states that don't fulfill that obligation will see this Department of Justice in court." All eight states being sued are led by Democratic governors, except for New Hampshire, which is led by a Republican.

An Associated Press tally found that the Justice Department has asked at least 26 states for voter

registration rolls in recent months and in many cases asked states for information on how they maintain their voter rolls. Some states have sent redacted versions of their voter lists that are available to the public or declined or demurred on the voter registration data requests, citing their own state laws or the Justice De-

partment's failure to fulfill federal Privacy Act obligations. Minnesota's secretary of state, Steve Simon, said in a statement Thursday that Minnesota's elections are "fair, accurate, honest and secure" and that the Department of Justice isn't entitled to the information. "We have been very clear with the DOJ about our po-

sition that state and federal law do not allow our office to provide them with private voter data unless they provide information about how the information will be used and secured," Simon said.

Minnesota sought that information from the Justice Department, inquiries that it didn't respond to before it sued Thursday, Simon said. In its lawsuits, the department said the states were breaking federal law by refusing to supply all of their information on registered voters, including a voter's full name, date of birth, address, state driver's license number and the last four digits of their Social Security number. That, and insufficient answers about voter list maintenance procedures, make it impossible for the Justice Department to determine whether the states are complying with federal law, the department told the courts.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said her agency gave the Justice Department what it is legally entitled to, the public version of Michigan's voter file. □

Associated Press

A plane had to be stopped by a safety zone at the end of the runway at a Virginia airport

ROANOKE, Va. (AP) — No injuries were reported after a commercial regional jet overshot the designated

touch down zone at a Virginia airport amid heavy rain Wednesday night, but was stopped in a safety



This photo provided by the Roanoke-Blacksburg Airport shows CommuteAir Flight 4339, which was safely stopped by an engineered materials arresting system bed at the end of a runway at Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport, on Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025, in Roanoke, Va.

Associated Press

area at the end of the runway, officials said. Delays continue at the airport Thursday morning.

CommuteAir Flight 4339 "landed long" as it arrived at Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport around 10 p.m., according to a Federal Aviation Administration statement. It was safely stopped by an engineered materials arresting system bed at the end of the runway.

The safety area made of cellular cement blocks meant to slow and stop an aircraft that overruns the runway was upgraded last year and performed as intended, airport spokesperson Alexa Briehl said in an email. There was heavy rain in the area at the time

of the incident, Briehl said. There were 50 passengers and three crew members on board the flight operating as United Express from Washington Dulles International Airport when it overran the runway while landing at Roanoke, CommuteAir executive vice president and chief financial officer Sean Frick said in an email. The captain reported no injuries, Frick said. Passengers aboard the Embraer 145 were bused to the terminal and law enforcement released them to go home a little before midnight, officials said.

All runways at the airport were closed for a time. One runway reopened after midnight to arriving and departing traffic, but the

runway where the overrun occurred remained closed, the airport said.

The FAA said it will investigate.

This was the third save this month by an engineered materials arresting system, according to the FAA. On Sept. 3, an arresting system stopped a Gulfstream G150 with two people aboard that overran the runway at Chicago Executive Airport. On the same day, a Bombardier Challenger 300 with four people on board was stopped when it went beyond the runway during landing at Boca Raton Airport. No serious injuries were reported in either case, the FAA said. There are currently 122 such systems at 70 U.S. airports. □

Danish officials believe drone flyovers at 4 airports are meant to sow fear and division

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Drones flew over four Danish airports overnight Wednesday into Thursday, the latest instance of unexplained drone activity that has raised concerns about security in northern Europe amid growing Russian aggression.

Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen called the incidents a “hybrid attack” because the flights all occurred within roughly the same timeframe. It was not immediately clear who was behind the incidents, but Lund Poulsen said that it appeared a “professional actor” was behind the “systematic” flights.

While careful not to directly accuse a specific country, Danish intelligence officials reiterated that they estimate the risk of Russian espionage and sabotage in Denmark as high. “We have seen this in other parts of Europe, and we must also expect to see it in Denmark,” said Finn Borch, the head of the Danish Security Intelligence Service at a news conference Thursday night.

Authorities said there was no danger to the public. The goal of the flyovers was



From left, Danish Minister of Defence Troels Lund Poulsen, Danish Minister of Justice Peter Hummelgaard, Chief of Police Thorkild Fogde, and Chief of Defence Michael Hyldgaard hold a press conference to provide an update on the recent drone activities at several airports in Denmark, at the Ministry of Defence in Copenhagen, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025.

to sow fear and division, Danish Minister of Justice Peter Hummelgaard said Thursday, adding that the country will seek additional ways to neutralize drones, including proposing legislation to allow infrastructure owners to shoot them down. Flights were halted for several hours at Aalborg Airport in northern Denmark, which also serves as a military base. Drone sight-

ings began shortly before 10 p.m. Wednesday and ended just before 1 a.m. Thursday.

Three airports in Esbjerg, Sønderborg and Skrydstrup also were impacted. Skrydstrup is an air base that is home to some of the Danish military's fighter jets.

The drones appeared to be flying around the airports with their lights turned on but authorities decid-

ed against attempting to shoot down the drones, police said. Additional details were not immediately available.

The latest drone activity came just days after a similar incident at Copenhagen Airport, conducted by what police call a “capable actor.”

The Copenhagen drones grounded flights in the Danish capital for hours Mon-

day night, prompting concerns that Russia could be behind the flyover above Scandinavia's largest airport.

While it wasn't immediately clear who was behind the flyover, Denmark's prime minister and NATO's secretary-general said that Russian involvement couldn't be ruled out. Denmark, already on edge because of its proximity to Russia, will join a group of neighboring countries Friday to discuss the European Union's plans for a “drone wall.”

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen called the Copenhagen incident “the most serious attack on Danish critical infrastructure to date.”

Russia's Embassy in Denmark on Thursday rejected claims of Russia's involvement in the drone incidents. “It is evident that the incidents involving reported disruptions at Danish airports are a staged provocation,” it said in a statement. “Undoubtedly, they will be used as a pretext for further escalating tension in the interests of forces seeking by all means to prolong the Ukrainian conflict and extend it to other countries.”

Associated Press

Indonesia faces calls to halt free meals program as over 5,000 school children fall ill

By **ADI MARSIELA and NINIEK KARMINI**

Associated Press

BANDUNG, Indonesia (AP)

—Indonesia's government was facing calls on Thursday to suspend President Prabowo Subianto's multi-billion-dollar free meals program after thousands of school pupils fell ill in a food poisoning outbreak. Television reports showed hospital wards filled with children, with some crying in pain and clutching their stomachs, while police and health workers carried away other victims in ambulances, vans and trucks. The Free Nutritious Meal program was started in January with the aim of fighting malnutrition by feeding nearly 90 million

children and pregnant women. The initiative, which is expected to cost \$28 billion through 2029, delivers on a campaign promise by Subianto, who was elected last year, which has more than 282 million people and Southeast Asia's largest economy.

The National Nutrition Agency recorded about 1,376 cases of school-linked food poisoning cases between January and the end of June. The number of students affected rose to 4,711 this week, with more than 1,000 victims reported in hardest hit West Java province alone. Agency chief Dadan Hindayana said kitchens with poisoning cases had been

suspended and local governments had set up task forces of nutritionists and health workers to supervise the free meals.

“The total number of food poisonings was only 4,711 portions out of 1 billion portions cooked during the 9-month program,” Hindayana said. “Of course this can still be improved.” Muhammad Qodari, head of the Presidential Staff Office, said Thursday that several government institutions have identified more than 5,000 food poisoning victims linked to the school meals program. The Ministry of Health recorded 5,207 cases, and the Food and Drug Monitoring Agency reported 5,320, he said.

Dedi Mulyadi, the governor of West Java, said more than 470 students fell sick in Bandung on Monday after eating the free

lunches, and three more outbreaks were reported on Wednesday in the Sukabumi region, affecting at least 580 children.



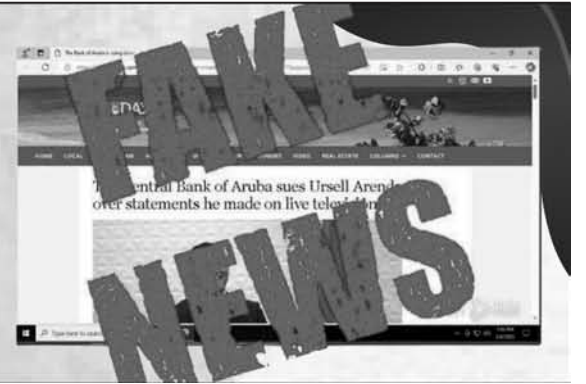
Health workers examine children who fell ill from food poisoning, at Cillilin Hospital in West Bandung, Indonesia, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

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U.N. court hears case of alleged Rwandan genocide financier stranded in legal limbo

By MOLLY QUELL

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) —

United Nations judges and lawyers met on Thursday to discuss the fate of a man accused of bank-rolling genocide in Rwanda who remains stranded in legal limbo two years after judges ruled that he was not fit to stand trial.

The case of Félicien Kabuga, who is about 90 years old and has dementia, echoes those of several men who have been ordered released from an international court but effectively have nowhere to go. Kabuga was one of the last fugitives charged in connection with the 1994 Rwanda genocide. After years of evading international efforts to track him down, Kabuga was arrested near Paris in May 2020. In 2023 the court halted his trial after medical experts concluded his dementia would prevent him from taking part.

Authorities have so far failed to find a country willing to take him in. Kabuga does not want to return to



Refugees who fled the ethnic bloodbath in neighboring Rwanda carry water containers back to their huts at the Benaco refugee camp in Tanzania, near the border with Rwanda, May 17, 1994.

Associated Press

Rwanda which has offered to take him out of fear he will be mistreated.

Kabuga's transfer to Rwanda is "absolutely not possible," his lawyer Emmanuel Altit told a nearly empty courtroom at the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals a court that deals with remaining cases from the now-closed U.N. tribunals

for Rwanda and the Balkan wars.

His trial began nearly three decades after the 100-day massacre left some 800,000 dead. He has pleaded not guilty to charges including genocide and incitement to commit genocide.

Judge Iain Bonomy noted that Kabuga's "expedited release," now two years on, was hamstrung by an "un-

willingness by certain European states" to take him in. According to Altit, sending Kabuga to Rwanda would condemn him to be "imprisoned" at best, or at worst, to "disappear." "Rwanda is not a democratic country," Altit said during an earlier hearing. Rwanda did not reply to a request for comment.

Others who have been left

in limbo include a former government minister from the Central African Republic, who sat in a hotel at the International Criminal Court for 43 days after prosecutors there dropped some 20 charges against him, citing lack of evidence. He was eventually able to seek asylum in an undisclosed country.

Ivorian political leader Charles Blé Goudé, who was acquitted by the ICC in 2019, remained "confined to a closed location, at exorbitant costs" afterward, according to court filings, until 2022 when the political situation in his home country changed and he could return.

Meanwhile, five Rwandan men have been stuck in the West African nation of Niger since their transfer from the court in 2021.

"There is no ability for these courts to release people without the cooperation of states who do not want to cooperate," said Lucy Gaynor, a researcher at the University of Amsterdam who focuses on international criminal trials. □

Slovenia bans Israeli prime minister Netanyahu from entering the EU country

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP) — Slovenia on Thursday said it was banning Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from entering the European Union country to underscore its defense of international law. The decision was linked to an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against the Israeli prime minister, Foreign Ministry official Neva Grasic said, according to the official STA news agency.

The EU nation of some 2 million people, which recognized a Palestinian state last year, has been a vocal critic of Israeli actions in Gaza and Thursday's move

against Netanyahu was apparently designed to underscore the country's policies.

Slovenia already had barred Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich from entering the country and imposed an arms embargo on Israel.

"All countries that are bound by the international court, including Slovenia, must not recognize the situation resulting from Israel's illegal presence in the occupied Palestinian territory, and must not offer any support in maintaining this situation," she added. □



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio (not shown) hold a joint press conference at the Prime Minister's Office, during Rubio's visit, in Jerusalem, Monday, Sept. 15, 2025.

Associated Press

Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds. Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying. The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal. The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing.

The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white

spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years. Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population. The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black. Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the

Pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white

fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activi-

ties, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover. These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. □

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Loft Apartment

A quick snack for the road - Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)



- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around 1/4 inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry. Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer! If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. ☐

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Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) – Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine



and can are largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not

uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other

items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and

more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

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Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)— Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat

too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is



time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees

produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits

for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris



The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant

was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered

as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vul-

nerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable

pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Everf Bongers.



The district of Savaneta: A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This

was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to

search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the

ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

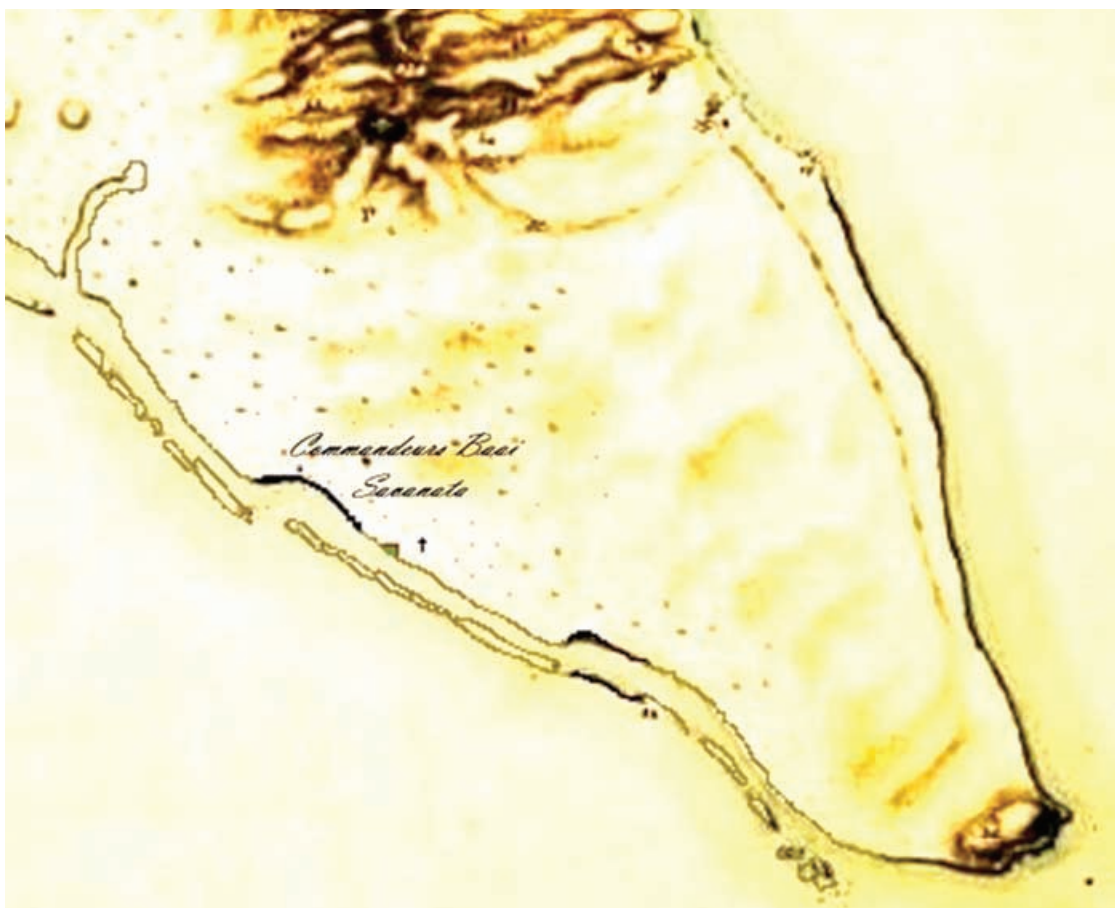
How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the

Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "savana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Old autos

1 Sign after Virgo

6 Script unit

10 Studio sign

11 Some golf clubs

13 Hayek of "Frida"

14 Designer's asset

15 Ram's mate

16 Nittany Lions' sch.

18 Light metal

19 Computer connectors

22 Bashful

23 Odometer unit

24 Rene of "Thor"

27 Valleys

28 Bible twin

29 Shark feature

30 Super-market section

35 Peculiar

36 Recipe unit

37 Indulgent

38 Less cordial

40 Select group

42 Jessica of "Tootsie"

43 Subway patron

DOWN

1 Finishes last

2 Deeply impressed

3 Farm machine

4 Crater part

5 Plains people

6 Illuminated

7 Nest egg acct.

8 Facial feature

9 Quality

12 Hearing and sight, for two

17 Cunning

20 Debate topic

21 Muscat native

24 Shrink in fear

25 Lot buy

26 Fish in a can

27 Nursery supply

29 Winter bug

31 Land units

32 Play-ground sight

33 Grow toward night

34 Bring to bear

39 Sense of self

41 Sassy talk

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

L O V S B M W J Q C T W R L Q V G J
I S K I U L G, J G M C J X T L Q J B B Q V
K Z R T B Y, Q C J G D T A W V O M T M
V G J X T B X T Q A S R C L V G.

— C T G W Z M J X L M Q C V W T J S
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THEIR LEAVES FALL OFF, THEN ENCOURAGE
THEM TO TRY AGAIN NEXT YEAR. — CHAD SUGG



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			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	21.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS	10.00	****	E	1
WED	24	OASIS OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	I	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
SUN	28	GRAND PRINCESS	09.00	17.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	30	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1

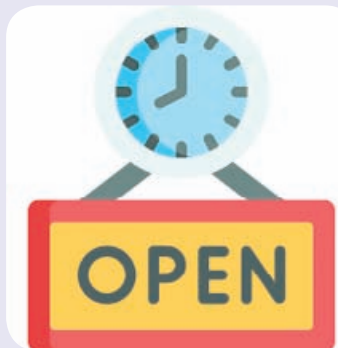
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		6	8				5	
	7							
1	3			4		7		
		3	9			8		
	2							
	8		6		5	9		
		7	2			6		
	5	8				9	2	
					4	7	5	

Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/26

Answer to previous puzzle

6	2	7	5	1	4	9	3	8
5	8	9	7	3	6	2	4	1
3	4	1	2	9	8	7	5	6
4	3	5	1	7	9	8	6	2
1	7	8	6	2	5	3	9	4
2	9	6	4	8	3	1	7	5
8	5	2	3	4	7	6	1	9
7	1	4	9	6	2	5	8	3
9	6	3	8	5	1	4	2	7

Difficulty: ★★★

9/25

What if your soulmate isn't your best friend? Brett Goldstein asks the question in 'All of You'

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Brett Goldstein might want to break your heart. Or at least give you a proper ugly cry.

In the new film "All of You," streaming on Apple TV+ Friday, audiences are presented with a sticky conundrum: What if your soulmate, and your best friend, were different people?

Reactions might differ about the choices Simon (Goldstein) and Laura (Imogen Poots) make in the film, which is a kind of rom-com-dram, if you will. But one thing Goldstein has noticed is that a lot of people who see it think that it's about them.

"I think everyone has this friendship," Goldstein said. "There's someone in their life that is not their partner that they have a connection that feels more than friends, but what is that? What is love? And does it take away from the other? We just wanted to explore all of that over time."

The idea came out of a getting to know you conversation with William Bridges, an Emmy winner for "Black Mirror" whose episodes include "USS Calister."

He co-wrote the film with Goldstein, and directed. At the time of the chat, Goldstein was single. Bridges was not. And Goldstein asked him if the woman he was seeing was "the one." It got them thinking about the idea of a soulmate test, something that could just take all the guesswork, all the bad dates, all the lost time, out of the equation. "All of You" begins with a moment of truth as Simon accompanies Laura, his best friend from university, on her way to take the test. He even pays for it, and soon enough she's off



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Brett Goldstein, right, and Imogen Poots in a scene from "All of You."

making plans with a husband to be.

Though the film has a bit of a science fiction element to it, it's decidedly less dystopian than a "Black Mirror." Some, like Laura, take the test. Some, like Simon, try to do it the old-fashioned way. But many are left wondering if they made the right choice. The film is told linearly, but skips over months and sometimes years in the saga of Laura and Simon.

"I was really conflicted, but I also felt great compassion for each of the characters," Poots said. "All a person is the choices they make or don't make, and I think that feelings and desire and love, these are

completely out of your control. And I don't think you can vilify a person for sort of having them. It's just when they follow through it obviously complicates things." Part of the equation involved making sure that Laura's soulmate, and husband, wasn't easy to dismiss. Not only did they write him as kind, loving and a good father. They also cast a handsome Scottish actor, Steven Cree, to play him.

"One thing we didn't want to do that I think romantic comedies do a lot is they make the other guy boring or a (expletive)-head. So you're going, 'Oh, obviously not him,'" Goldstein said. "You have to kind of

stack the odds against all of them because that is more real and it's much more challenging, I think, for an audience because I think you are going 'I want this thing to happen and I also don't want this thing to happen.'"

Associated Press



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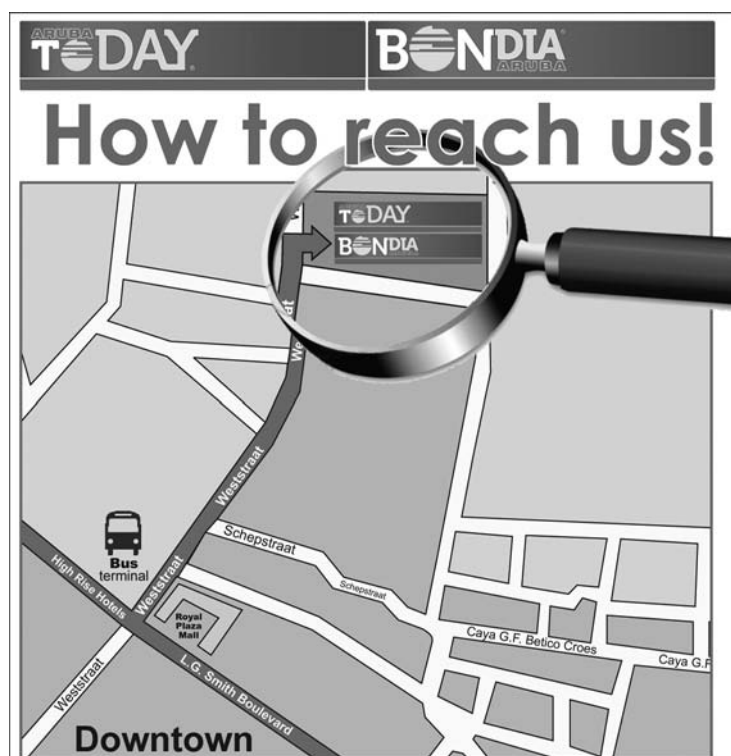
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Amazon to pay \$2.5 billion to settle FTC allegations it duped customers into enrolling in Prime

By SALLY HO

The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Amazon has reached a historic \$2.5 billion settlement with the Federal Trade Commission, which said the online retail giant tricked customers into signing up for its Prime memberships and made it difficult for them to cancel after doing so. The Seattle company will pay \$1 billion in civil penalties the largest fine in the agency's history and \$1.5 billion will be paid back to consumers who were unintentionally enrolled in Prime, or were deterred from canceling their subscriptions, the agency said Thursday.

The surprise settlement comes just days after the trial began in U.S. District Court in Seattle this week. At the heart of the case is the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act, a 2010 law designed to ensure that people know what they're being charged for online.

FTC officials said Amazon had its back against the wall and the consumer refund amount exceeded even the agency's expert projections.

"I think it just took a few days for them to see that



An Amazon Prime driver makes a delivery outside an apartment building in Pittsburgh, March 10, 2025.

they were going to lose. And they came to us and they paid out," said Chris Mufarrige, director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, on the settlement negotiations.

Amazon, however, said it was confident it would win case but that it chose to resolve it quickly instead of going through potentially years of trial and appeals. The company admitted no wrongdoing in the case, which was first filed two

years ago.

"Amazon and our executives have always followed the law and this settlement allows us to move forward and focus on innovating for customers," said spokesman Mark Blafkin in a statement. "We work incredibly hard to make it clear and simple for customers to both sign up or cancel their Prime membership, and to offer substantial value for our many millions of loyal Prime members around the

world."

Certain Prime customers who are eligible for automatic refunds of up to \$51 include those who may have signed up for a membership via the company's "Single Page Checkout," among other links, between June 23, 2019, to June 23, 2025. Those customers will be reimbursed within 90 days of the settlement order.

Amazon is also on the hook to set up a claims process

for more than 30 million customers who may have been affected by the other issues at the heart of the FTC case, including its cancellation process.

Amazon Prime provides subscribers with perks that include faster shipping, video streaming and discounts at Whole Foods for a fee of \$139 annually, or \$14.99 a month.

It's a key and growing part of Amazon's business, with more than 200 million members. In its latest financial report, the company reported in July that it booked more than \$12 billion in net revenue for subscription services, a 12% increase from the same period last year. That figure includes annual and monthly fees associated with Prime memberships, as well as other subscription services such as its music and e-books platforms.

The FTC said Amazon deliberately made it difficult for customers to purchase an item without also subscribing to Prime. In some cases, consumers were presented with a button to complete their transactions which did not clearly state it would also enroll them in Prime, the agency said. □

Associated Press

Apple says EU's sweeping digital rules delay new features for Europeans and seeks their repeal

By KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Apple wants the European Union to repeal its digital com-

petition rule book, saying the regulations are cumbersome and are delaying new features for Europeans such as live translation for

AirPods.

The European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive branch, said Thursday that's not going to happen. "There is absolutely no intention from the Commission's side to repeal the DMA," said Commission spokesman Thomas Regnier, referring to the Digital Markets Act.

The iPhone maker outlined its complaints the day before in a response to a consultation on the DMA, a sweeping set of rules designed to stop Big Tech companies from dominating markets.

The company said "the DMA should be repealed" or scaled back, saying it's

undermining innovation and eroding privacy and security.

Apple has long opposed the law and was one of the first companies to be fined after the rules took effect last year, with a 500 million euro (\$587 million) penalty in an app store case.

Apple said Europeans are being left behind the rest of the world because it has to spend more time trying to figure out how to get new features to comply with the rule book.

"The DMA requires Apple to make certain features work on non-Apple products and apps before we can share them with our users," the company said in a

blog post.

"Unfortunately, that requires a lot of engineering work, and it's caused us to delay some new features in the EU." For example, under the DMA, the live translation feature that Apple unveiled earlier this month for use with AirPods would also have to work with wireless earbuds from other brands. The feature uses an iPhone's on-device AI to translate when other languages are spoken around the person using them.

Apple says it needs more work to make sure conversations, which are processed on the device, stay private if used with non-Apple products. □



The AirPods Pro 3 are displayed during an announcement of new products at Apple Park on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

Kyle Lowry's new role: NBA analyst for Prime Video, even while still playing for the 76ers

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Kyle Lowry is joining a new team, without leaving his current team.

Prime Video announced Thursday that it has hired Lowry the Philadelphia 76ers guard who is about to enter what will be the 20th season of his pro career as an NBA on Prime analyst. It's a multiyear deal, with Lowry "making select appearances" this season, Prime said, adding that he will have "increased responsibilities in the future." NBA on Prime's coverage of the league will begin Oct. 24 with a doubleheader, Boston at New York followed by Minnesota at the Los Angeles Lakers.

Lowry is expected to have some role that night; the 76ers do not have a game that evening.

"I'm excited to start the next chapter of my basketball journey with the Prime Sports team," Lowry said. "The talent they've assembled is incredible, and together we'll deliver something fresh and special for basketball fans worldwide. It's an honor to be part of



Philadelphia 76ers' Kyle Lowry looks to shoot during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks, Tuesday, April 1, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

this from Day One, and I'm committed to sharing the insights I've gained from my career through NBA on Prime for years to come." Lowry transitioning to television seemed inevitable when his playing days end whenever that happens. He has enormous popularity among his fellow players,

as well as coaches, some of whom have noted that he sees the game differently than many players do. And that ability should serve him well in the new role with Prime Video. "Kyle's a throwback," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said of his former point guard last year. "You can't

just look at his numbers or his points per game or whatever. It's the impact that he has on winning." The 39-year-old Lowry played his college ball at Villanova before entering the NBA in 2006. He'll be only the 12th player in NBA history to be in the league for 20 or more seasons and

just the second point guard to achieve that feat; Chris Paul, now of the Los Angeles Clippers, played his 20th season last season with San Antonio.

Lowry is a six-time NBA All-Star, won an Olympic gold medal with USA Basketball at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games, was part of the Toronto team that won the NBA title in 2019 and has said many times that he will retire somehow as part of the Raptors, even if it means only signing a one-day contract to make that a reality. "We look forward to Kyle's contributions to our team both this season as an active player and in the future," said Amina Hussein, Prime's head of on-air sports talent in the U.S. "His authentic personality and deep understanding of today's game will offer viewers unique analysis as we deliver NBA coverage that celebrates the game and educates fans around the world." Prime Video joins the NBA coverage world this season with the league's 11-year, \$76 billion series of rights deals set to begin. □

New York Liberty GM feels team needs to evolve and be more innovative to keep up with WNBA trends

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New York general manager Jonathan Kolb decided to make a coaching change so the Liberty could evolve for the future and not live in the past.

"Very serious thought and consideration was made to retaining Sandy (Bron-dello), but ultimately we determined that evolution and innovation is what is needed at this time," Kolb said Thursday morning to a group of reporters.

The franchise announced Tuesday that Brondello's contract wouldn't be renewed for next season after the team exited in the first round of the playoffs. That came a year she led

the team to the WNBA championship in 2024.

"I think it's really important, that I emphasize that this decision was in no way punitive, nor was it reactive, but it's instead rooted in being proactive," Kolb said. "Nor was this decision based solely on the results of this past season. I actually think Sandy did a good job, navigating this group through uncharted waters, through injuries and a lack of availability."

After a 9-0 start, the team struggled with injuries to star players Breanna Stewart, Jonquel Jones and Sabrina Ionescu this year. New York earned the No. 5 seed in the playoffs before losing to Phoenix in a decisive Game 3. The players

outwardly support Brondello. "To anybody that kind of questions Sandy being here, this is a resilient group," Stewart said after the Game 3 loss to Phoenix last week. "And she has our back and we have hers. The way that she continued to kind of deal with the cards she was dealt was incredible. It wasn't easy for anybody but she came in every day with a positive attitude and a mindset to put us in our best positions possible and best foot forward." Kolb said he did talk to the players about the move, but didn't want to share the conversations he had. Kolb did site the team's offensive numbers in many categories were similar

to last season, but their league rankings dropped. "I think our organization has always taken pride in

being innovative and looking forward and being future oriented and process based," Kolb said. □



New York Liberty head coach Sandy Brondello, left, and Natasha Cloud (9) cheer on Breanna Stewart, center, during the first half of Game 1 against the Phoenix Mercury in the first round of the WNBA basketball playoffs Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Rory McIlroy has become the 'cornerstone' of Europe in Ryder Cup

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) —

Rory McIlroy understood all that the Ryder Cup means three days before he ever hit a shot. As a 21-year-old rookie in 2010, he was in the team room at Celtic Manor in Wales with the rest of the Europeans. On the phone was Seve Ballesteros, the soul of Team Europe, dying from a brain tumor.

"I look around and the majority of the team is crying as Seve is talking to us," McIlroy recalled Wednesday ahead of a soggy day of practice at Bethpage Black.

"And I'm like, that's it. That's the embodiment of what the European Ryder Cup team is," he said.



Europe's Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, watches his tee shot on the 12th hole during a practice round for the Ryder Cup golf tournament, Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2025, on the Bethpage Black golf course, in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Associated Press

the Memorial without a courtesy call to host Jack Nicklaus and said at the U.S. Open, "I've earned the right to do whatever I want."

He is a big figure in golf, a big part of Team Europe and certainly the most experienced player. This is eighth Ryder Cup since making his debut in the exhibition at Wales. His record is 16-13-4, certainly not the best among European stalwarts, but what matters more is being on five winning teams against two losses.

Jon Rahm saw a shift in McIlroy's presence at the last Ryder Cup in Rome, a week marked not only by McIlroy's personal-best 4-1-0 record, but his feisty spirit when he mixed it up in a parking lot still peeved over the behavior by Patrick Cantlay's caddie.

"He's the biggest name we have in Europe. He's the better player we have in Europe. And he's definitely the biggest presence," two-time major champion Jon Rahm said. "That's his role now. He's gone from being an incredibly good player to a great Ryder Cup player to now being, I would say, the cornerstone that Team Europe needs."

He can lead by his play and inspire by his emotions. McIlroy still doesn't see himself in a position to dispense advice, particularly when it comes to handling a hostile crowd.

He was screaming at the top of his lungs and cupping his ears to egg on the Minnesota crowd during an epic singles match with Patrick Reed at Hazeltine in 2016. He was in tears at Whistling Straits in 2021 after a poor performance by himself and Team Europe. And then came Rome, where he was the catalyst. "I'm very lucky."

I get a lot of support pretty much everywhere I go when I play golf, and it's going to feel a little different for me this week. But that's to be expected," McIlroy said.

"I feel like at times in the Ryder Cup, I have engage too much with the crowd"

"That conference call with Seve in 2010 was the moment for me."

The player who once referred to the Ryder Cup as an exhibition, as "not that important an event for me," as a competition that wouldn't make him run around throwing fists pumps, is now the strongest voice and the only European with the career Grand Slam. "He's obviously a great player and very skilled, very experienced," Viktor Hovland said. "But also he carries a lot of weight in the team room. He's very comforting to have there. He makes everyone in the team room feel good. And I think he brings out the best in everyone in there."

The question is what McIlroy will bring out from the New York crowd when the Ryder Cup gets started Friday at the public course with a reputation for being rowdy. McIlroy has gone from being extremely popular to occasionally polarizing over the last several years. He went from being the boldest opponent of Saudi-funded LIV Golf to pushing the hardest for the rival circuits to come together. After winning the Masters to complete the career Grand Slam, he shirked media responsibilities at two majors, skipped

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